

Gulf of Maine Coastal Ecosystems Program

THE WILD GULF

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The Wild Gulf Project: an educational initiative

A wealth of information exists for those who want to teach and learn about the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and its fish and wildlife habitats. However, prior to the development of the Wild Gulf Project, information was scattered and valuable teaching resources were little known. The Wild Gulf Project, a joint initiative of The Chewonki Foundation, the Gulf of Maine Coastal Ecosystems Program and the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, was designed to provide teachers and others with tools to bring the Gulf of Maine into the classroom and help students develop a watershed-wide perspective about the Gulf of Maine. The *Wild Gulf Almanac* was created to gather information and create an accessible, up-to-date guide for locating and using educational materials. In addition, the *Wild Gulf Almanac's* Directory of Resource Organizations provides valuable information to members of town conservation commissions, land trusts and others interested in identifying resource people, agencies and programs that can work cooperatively to conserve the living resources in the Gulf of Maine.

The Wild Gulf Poster Series and accompanying workbook provided basic information about the Gulf of Maine watershed and introduced the *Wild Gulf Almanac* to 1,200 K - 12 educators in early 1995. The *Almanac*, completed in late 1995, was designed for teachers, students and other interested individuals as a serialized, annotated catalog orienting readers to important fish and wildlife habitats, and describing educational materials, facilities and resources currently available to teachers and individuals who want information about the Gulf of Maine. Many of the materials described in the 165-page *Almanac* are free of charge; some can be ordered at a discount in large quantities; some are part of a whole curriculum package; some are available on loan, or as part of visiting lectures and programs. The *Almanac* describes nature centers and exhibits, wildlife reserves, aquariums, fish hatcheries and museums throughout the coastal region of the Gulf of Maine watershed that are open to the public; many have special tours and programs for students and adults. Six thousand copies of the *Wild Gulf Almanac* have been distributed free of charge to educators, biologists and conservationists throughout the Gulf of Maine watershed. In 1996, the *Wild Gulf Almanac* received a Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment's visionary award and the Bronze Award for Excellence from the Natural Resources Defense Council.

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For more information or for a copy of The Wild Gulf Almanac, contact:

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